

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS 0646

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: WORLD TRADE UNION CONFERENCE BEING CANCELLED

REF: PARIS 35698

1. DURING THE 29 NOVEMBER MEETING WITH US AND UK
LABOR COUNSELORS, RENE DUHAMEL, CGT NATIONAL SECRETARY
FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, REVEALED THAT THE PLAN
TO ORGANIZE A "WORLD TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON
DEVELOPMENT" HAD ABORTED.

2. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR SUCH
CONFERENCE CAME FROM THE LABOR CENTERS OF YUGOSLAVIA
AND ALGERIA AND WAS FIRST SURFACED IN ALGIERS IN
SEPTEMBER 1973 ON THE OCCASION OF THE FOURTH CON-
FERENCE OF NONALIGNED HEADS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENTS.

A WORKING PARTY TO PREPARE THE PROJECTED CONFERENCE
MET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ALGIERS ON 4-5 SEPTEMBER

1975. THE PARTICIPANTS WERE THE UGTA (ALGERIA),
CSY (YUGOSLAVIA), CUT (CHILE), CGT AND CFDT (FRANCE)

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AND THE INDIAN ICFTU AFFILIATE INTUC.

3. A SECOND MEETING OF THIS WORKING PARTY WAS HELD IN BELGRADE ON 2-3 DECEMBER 1975 AND THE THIRD IN GENEVA IN JUNE 1976 IN WHICH SOME ICFTU AFFILIATES PARTICIPATED AS OBSERVERS.

4. INTERESTINGLY, DUHAMEL HELD THE YUGOSLAVS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ABANDONMENT OF THE PROJECTED WORLDWIDE TRADE UNION CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO DUHAMEL THE YUGOSLAVS, AFTER HEARING THAT WEST EUROPEAN UNIONS AND ESPECIALLY DGB WERE NOT INTERESTED IN SUCH A CONFERENCE, TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE WHOLE IDEA SHOULD BE DROPPED. DUHAMEL SPECULATED THAT THERE MUST BE CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE YUGOSLAVS AND DGB, PROBABLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE YUGOSLAV IMMIGRANT WORKERS IN FRG WHICH COMPELLED THE YUGOSLAVS TO LOSE INTEREST IN THE CONFERENCE PROJECT ONCE THE DGB REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE.

5. AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT DUHAMEL SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS THE IDEA OF HOLDING SUCH A WORLDWIDE CONFERENCE WAS MUCH TOO AMBITIOUS AND IN THE FUTURE SUCH CONFERENCES SHOULD BE CAST WITHOUT THE REQUIREMENT THAT EVERYONE PARTICIPATE IN IT.

6. COMMENT: DUHAMEL DID NOT HIDE HIS ANNOYANCE WITH THE YUGOSLAVS FOR HAVING CAUSED THE CANCELLATION OF THE CONFERENCE. HE CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT AS FAR AS THE CGT WAS CONCERNED THE CONFERENCE COULD VERY WELL HAVE BEEN LABELED WORLDWIDE BUT NOT NECESSARILY EXPECT EVERY UNION TO ATTEND IT, ESPECIALLY IF THE REFUSALS TO PARTICIPATE CAME FROM UNIONS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. IN OTHER WORDS, CGT'S INTEREST WAS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON THE PROPAGANDA VALUE OF SUCH A CONFERENCE AND ON THE OPPORTUNITY IT WOULD HAVE OFFERED FOR MORE "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" RHETORIC.

7. WHAT IS ALSO INTERESTING IS THE INFERENCE FROM WHAT DUHAMEL SAID THAT THE YUGOSLAVS ALONE WERE ABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO CAUSE THE ABANDONMENT OF THIS PROJECT. ALGIERS APPARENTLY DID NOT FEEL THAT IT COULD "GO IT ALONE" WITHOUT THE YUGOSLAVS.
RUSH

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